

## REMARKS

### SUMMARY

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-77 were rejected in the above-identified Office Action. Claims 1-77 remain pending in the application.

Applicants respectfully request clarification regarding the status of claims 56-59. Claims 56-59 are listed as rejected claims in the Office Action Summary. No ground of rejection of those claims, however, is provided in the rest of the Office Action. Absent some ground of rejection, claims 56-59 must be allowed. Additionally, claim 59 is an independent claim. Thus, absent some ground of rejection for claim 59, dependent claims 60-77 must also be found allowable.

### CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

In “Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102,” item 2 on page 2 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 1, 17-20, 34-36, 52-55, and 73-77 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,747,578 to *Lam, et al.* (hereinafter “Lam”) under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Before discussing Lam in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention, as claimed in amended claim 1, would be helpful. Claim 1 calls for, *inter alia*, in a base portion of an electronic apparatus, a method of operation comprising:

detecting for presence of a removably attached interchangeable cover;  
**authenticating** the removably attached interchangeable cover as an **eligible** cover;  
and  
operating the electronic apparatus, **enabling/disabling** all or selected  
**functions/features** offered by the base portion and the removably attached

**interchangeable cover in view of whether the removably attached interchangeable cover is authenticated.**

The Lam reference teaches an “integrated removeable functional faceplate for a portable computer system.” The faceplate employs “specially located electrical contacts or pads that mate with similarly located electrical contacts mounted on the portable computer system.” The electrical contacts carry signals that are “responsive to the pressing of physical buttons which may be placed in any location on the functional faceplate.” By allowing the buttons to be placed in any location on the faceplate, the invention of Lam allows individual faceplates to be developed for specific purposes such as gaming or music playing. Also taught by Lam is the placement on the faceplate of an option identification means coupled to an electrical contact. The means is capable of communicating a code to the portable computer system indicating the faceplate’s identity or type. The communicated code can help the portable computer system to interpret signals sent by the faceplate.

In contrast, even assuming *arguendo* that Lam may be read as having disclosed that its portable computer system “detects” the faceplate (a reading with which Applicants disagree, but which may be ignored for the moment), Lam nonetheless fails entirely to disclose any sort of eligibility authentication process to determine whether the detected faceplate is eligible for use with the portable computer system. The portable computer system of Lam, as discussed above, merely receives identification and type information from a faceplate, and uses this information to determine how to process the signals from the faceplate. Nowhere does Lam mention any sort of processing of the information to determine whether the faceplate is of the sort considered “eligible”, and only then operates itself based on having determined the eligibility. Lam does not have any teaching on the concept of the eligibility of a removable faceplate to modify the operation of a computer system. Accordingly, no “eligibility” authentication can occur because the portable computer system of Lam makes no determination of whether the faceplate is “eligible.”

It further follows that Lam fails to teach the enabling/disabling of all or selected functions/features offered by the base portion and cover in view of whether the cover is authenticated to be eligible or not, since the operation of authentication is never made.

Accordingly, claim 1 is clearly patentable over Lam.

Claim 36 is directed toward an apparatus of the base portion of claim 1. Claim 36 includes language similar to claim 1. Thus, for at least the same reasons, claim 36 is patentable over Lam.

Claims 17-20 and 52-55 depend from claims 1 and 36, incorporating their limitations respectively. Thus, for at least the same reasons, claims 17-20 and 52-55 are patentable over Lam.

Claim 34-36 and 73-77 depend from independent claims 21 and 59, respectively. Claims 21 and 59 were not rejected by the Examiner as being anticipated by Lam. Thus, for at least the same reasons that claims 21 and 59 are patentable over Lam, claims 34-36 and 73-77 are also patentable.

#### **CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103**

In “Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103,” item 4 on page 7 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 2-7, 10-11, 13-16, 21-26, 29-33, 37-42, 45-46, 48-51, 60-65, and 68-72 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Lam in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,153,919 to *Reid, III et al.* (hereinafter “Reed”) under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a). For at least the reasons previously provided, Applicant traverses.

In “Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103,” item 5 on page 13 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 8-9, 12, 27-28, 43-44, 47, and 66-67 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Lam and Reed in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,784,463 to *Chen, et al.*

(hereinafter “Chen”) under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a). For at least the reasons previously provided, Applicant traverses.

Claims 60-72 depend from claim 59. Claim 59 is not rejected as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Accordingly, for at least the same reasons that claim 59 is patentable under §103(a), claims 60-72 are also patentable.

Reed and Chen, alone or in combination, fail to cure the above discussed deficiencies of Lam. Therefore, claims 1, 21 and 36 remain patentable over Lam even when combined with Reed, Chen, or both.

Claims 2-7, 10-11, 13-16, 22-26, 29-33, 37-42, 45-46, and 48-51 depend from claims 1, 21, and 36, incorporating their limitations respectively. Thus, for at least the same reasons, claims 2-7, 10-11, 13-16, 22-26, 29-33, 37-42, 45-46, and 48-51 are patentable over Lam in view of Reed.

Claims 8-9, 12, 27-28, 43-44, and 47 depend from claims 1, 21, and 36, incorporating their limitations respectively. Thus, for at least the same reasons, claims 8-9, 12, 27-28, 43-44, and 47 are patentable over Lam and Reed in view of Chen.

## **CONCLUSION**

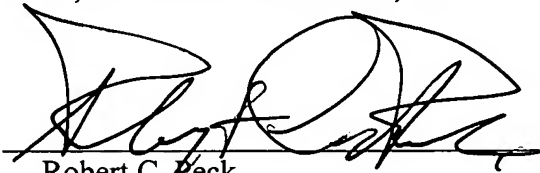
In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-77 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present paper, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact

the undersigned at (206) 407-1513. If any fees are due in connection with this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account 500393.

Respectfully submitted,  
SCHWABE, WILLIAMSON & WYATT, P.C.

Date: October 12, 2005

by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert C. Peck', written over a horizontal line.

Robert C. Peck  
Reg. No.: 56,826

Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt, P.C.  
Pacwest Center, Suites 1600-1900  
1211 SW Fifth Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97222  
Telephone: 503-222-9981